

*Library*

STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1961



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

F. HODSON, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.,  
M.R.S.H.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June, 1962.

To The Chairman and Members,  
Sturminster Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1961.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

The report shows that measles was again prevalent during the year but to a less extent than in 1960. It is not customary to find a high prevalence of measles in consecutive years.

Allowing for the smallness of the figures under consideration the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the country as a whole. It is noted however that two suicidal deaths occurred during the year compared with two during the preceding four years.

I am indebted to Mr. Hodson for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services during the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Harris, your Housing Manager, Miss Bradley and all the members of your staff.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant

*W. J. Hodson.*

Medical Officer of Health

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30145880>

# STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 1

- A. Area - 45,364 acres  
 Rateable value: 1st April 1962 - £80,710  
 Production of a penny rate: 1st April 1961/62 - £320 (estimate)  
 1962/63 - £322 (estimate)

### Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,810

### LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a) Sturminster R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales
Total	61	78	Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	60	75	resident pop:		
Illegitimate	1	3	= 13.1	14.0	17.4

### STILLBIRTHS

Total	1	1	Rate per 1,000		
(Legitimate)			live & stillbirths		
			= 14.2	14.2	18.7

### DEATHS

Total	60	85	Rate per 1,000		
			resident pop:		
			= 14.6	10.7	12.0

### Deaths in Infants

Under 1 year	1	1	Infantile death		
Under 4 weeks	1	Nil	rate per 1,000		
Under 1 week	1	Nil	live births		
(Legitimate)			= 14.4	14.4	21.4

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	4	3	1	3
" " Other Cancer	13	12	11	8
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	24	21	15	17
" " Other heart or circulatory disease	61	74	59	56
" " Influenza	9	Nil	3	1
" " Pneumonia	9	3	2	4
" " Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	1	4	1
" " Suicide	2	Nil	1	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	1	2	Nil	2



B. Nature of the District

The district is essentially agricultural in character. Glove making, both in the factory and in the home, is also carried out in many parts of the district. There are two slaughterhouses, where a considerable amount of 'export' meat is produced. A number of saw mills are also in the district.

More recently a broiler chicken industry was commenced on the border of the district.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

Hospital coverage for the district is shared by the Yeatman Hospital at Sherborne, the Dorset County Hospital (both of the West Dorset Hospital Group) together with the Blandford Hospital and the Poole General Hospital (of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Hospital Group) of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has once again proved co-operative, helpful and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

## Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, to the Sturminster Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee, and to the Sturminster Silver Thread Club.

## Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding years.

### Poliomyelitis (Six months to thirty-nine years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Sturminster Newton from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the first Monday in the month.

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Two treatments	373	(380)	(1,057)
Three treatments	385	(735)	(1,271)
Fourth treatment	645		
<u>Diphtheria</u>			
Primary treatments	124	(137)	(187)
Booster treatments	122	(95)	(188)
<u>Whooping Cough</u>			
Primary treatments	117	(137)	(192)
Booster treatments	33	(20)	(44)
<u>Tetanus</u>			
Primary treatments	177	(148)	(161)
Booster treatments	73	(35)	(13)
<u>Smallpox</u>			
Primary vaccinations	93	(104)	(124)
Re-vaccinations	8	(17)	(16)
<u>B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis</u>	215	-	(58)

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Chief Public Health Inspector - F. Hodson, M.A.P.H.I.,  
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector - H. Watkin, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Resigned December, 1961).

Both Public Health Inspectors are engaged full time on sanitary duties and meat inspection.

Clerical Staff - Part time clerk and typing assistance from typing pool.

WATER SUPPLY

The Poole and East Dorset Water Board have responsibility for the public water supplies in the district.

There has been close co-operation between the officers of the Board and your Public Health Officers. Copies of reports of water samples taken by the Board's Officers are sent to my office and similarly, reports of samples taken by your Officers are sent to the Board.

Quantity

No shortages of supplies during the year have come to my notice.



### Quality

Weekly samples for bacteriological examination of all the Board's supplies at source were taken by the Board. Your officers took spot check samples of the mains supplies in the course of distribution.

The condition of the public supplies remained satisfactory.

The only area in your district having an unsatisfactory supply is part of the Parish of Glanvilles Wootton where about six houses obtain their supply from three private supplies

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A start was made during the year on the Hazelbury Bryan Sewage scheme serving the Wonston area.

The Burton Street area of Marnhull was completed.

### Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptying service operated directly by the Council under section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936 was operated by contract since early in the year.

On the whole the work carried out by the Contractors has been satisfactory, though a few complaints have been received of unsatisfactory work which would not normally arise in a service controlled directly by the Council. The use of deodorising equipment on such vehicles is highly desirable, and was in fact employed on the Council's vehicle. It would be a good thing if all such vehicles were equipped with deodorising equipment, particularly when they are used in built-up areas.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

A twice monthly house refuse collection is now operating throughout the district, with disposal by controlled tipping.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING (Continued)

During the year the Public Health Committee considered the possibility of disposing of refuse by pulverisation and formed a Sub-Committee to investigate thoroughly this proposal.

Salvage Paper baling has been discontinued during the year and paper is now sold loosely packed up into bundles or sacks. This has resulted in a drop in total salvage sales, but has meant that more time is available for tip maintenance.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

One case of serious stream pollution occurred at Marn-hull, but was dealt with informally. This arose from the discharge of washings from premises where ducks are kept in large numbers.

Further complaints were received with regard to smell nuisance from the brook at Stourton Caundle principally due to farm drainage into the brook.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures are not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on regis- ter.</u>	<u>Inspec- tions</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occu- piers Prose- cuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	1	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	39	3	3
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	26	30	5	3
Total -	77	72	9	7

No. of cases in which defects were -

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Want of Cleanliness	3	3
Sanitary Conveniences -		
Insufficient	2	2
Unsuitable or defective	4	2
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 7

No. of outworkers - (Glove making) - 93

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

A number of installations of oil fired boilers have taken place during the year, but so far we have no cause for action under the above Act in relation to them. The largest installation was at the Oakdale Creamery, Okeford Fitzpaine.

#### SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access, but a number of private swimming pools are in use.

A number of small portable swimming pools have been provided at schools within the district. The water from these is regularly sampled by the County Public Health Department.

There is a large permanent swimming pool which has been installed at Walton Elm School, Marnhull. Some trouble was experienced during the summer due to algae formation and treatment with a small quantity of Copper Sulphate was tried with some success.



## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

During the year two complaints were received of noise arising from the use of loudspeakers in chicken houses, but these were dealt with informally.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Eight caravan sites were licensed during the year. All these were for use by individual caravans. There are no large caravan sites in the district.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year, the following infestations have been dealt with -

Fleas	-	2
Fly Infestations	-	12
Ants	-	5
Cockroaches	-	3

There have been reports from some parts of the country of certain insects (particularly flies) becoming immune to some kinds of insecticides, but no specific instances of such immunity have been noticed in this district.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which the Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The total number of inspections made under the Act in the district was 459 and 398 treatments were carried out, compared with 566 and 472 respectively during the previous year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One shop is licensed under the Act. Nine inspections were carried out.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

The usual high standard of hygiene has been maintained at school canteens, and there are no particular matters to report relating to school sanitation.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

No statutory action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of an old person requiring care and attention to an Institution.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district	3,380
<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -</u>	
No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	344
No. of inspections made	501
No. of informal notices served	11
No. of informal notices complied with	7
No. of statutory notices served	2
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	2
Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -	
Demolition Orders made	Nil
Undertakings accepted for -	
Closure	Nil
Reconditioning	Nil
Other Action	Nil



HOUSING (Continued)

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year.

Slum Clearance

Seven condemned houses have been demolished during the year. Five unfit houses have been reconditioned, and plans have been received in respect of six others. Two houses have been represented and added to the list of unfit houses.

New Housing

Twenty new houses were built during the year by private enterprise, none by the Council.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

Twenty-eight applications were received during the year in respect to standard and seventeen in respect to discretionary, grants. In addition, standard and discretionary

grants were made available in respect to thirty three Council houses.

During the latter half of the year the Council decided to discontinue making discretionary grants except in respect of agricultural cottages.

### Rehousing

During the year forty-five families were rehoused by the Council. At the end of the year there were one hundred and six applicants for Council houses, of which eighty-eight were resident in the district.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### 1. Milk

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration  
by the District Council \_\_\_\_\_ 22

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject  
to registration \_\_\_\_\_ 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration \_\_\_\_\_ 11

#### Samples

Seventy-five samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

### 2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	38
Canteens - School and workplace	5
Confectioners	14
Meat and Fish	12
Grocers	33
Mixed Stores	40
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	5
Food factories	3
Stalls	8
Other	4

## 2. Other Food Premises (Continued)

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	50
Sausages & Prepared Meats	10
Fish & Chips	2
Cooked Chicken	1

No. of such premises inspected during the year 163  
No. of inspections carried out 401

During the year samples have been taken of sausages, sausage meat and minced beef at butchers' premises. Most of these have been satisfactory but three cases occurred in which organisms were found in the minced beef. The attention of slaughterhouse proprietors has been drawn to these findings since it is possible that the contamination occurred during slaughter, probably due to the use of wiping cloths. These investigations will continue.

It will be recalled that criticism has been expressed from time to time, that unsterilized meat can be sent from a knackers yard into the dog meat trade provided it is first stained. In an effort to prove that this is not only undesirable but dangerous from the point of view of contaminating domestic utensils, fifty odd samples were taken at the knacker's yard, but only surprisingly few revealed any evidence of contamination with organisms of the Salmonella and Shigella groups.

### Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

On the instruction of the Council, the meat inspection carried out by your Meat Inspectors at these slaughterhouses is limited to -

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on four days a week and to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

On Monday evenings inspection is carried on to a later hour if necessary.



Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	431	3,502	7,922	250	33
Number Inspected	431	3,502	7,922	250	33
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	19	24	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	102	2,098	146	6	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	24.12	60.45	2.14	2.4	24.24
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	3	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	.11	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	57	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	14	43	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	<u>3,351</u>
Total No. of informal notices served	<u>51</u>
Total No. of informal notices complied with	<u>31</u>
Total No. of statutory notices served	<u>2</u>
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>Nil</u>
No. of prosecutions	<u>Nil</u>

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

No information has been received during the year, under the Radioactive Substances Act, indicating premises where radioactive material is in use or in respect to authorised arrangements made for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests that no deterioration has taken place.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Dysentery	3
Measles	182
Erysipelas	2
Whooping Cough	20
Pneumonia	5
Scarlet Fever	12

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
1	-

Food Poisoning No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health





